

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated and purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a WWOX polypeptide. In another embodiment, the polynucleotide comprises a nucleic acid sequence ~~encoded by~~ included in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:31, or SEQ ID NO:33. In yet another embodiment, the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:30, or SEQ ID NO:32. It is contemplated that any other WWOX nucleic acid or protein sequence may be used in conjunction with this invention.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention also provides an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a WWOX polypeptide. In one embodiment, the expression vector comprises the nucleic acid sequence ~~encoded in~~ encodes SEQ ID NO:2. In another embodiment, the expression vector comprises the nucleic acid sequence ~~encoded by~~ comprises SEQ ID NO:1. In yet other embodiments, the expression vector comprises the nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 1.5 contiguous kilobases of SEQ ID NO:1. In a related embodiment, the expression vector comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding at least 90 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 27 beginning at line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

In certain embodiments, a “gene” refers to a nucleic acid that is transcribed. As used herein, a “gene segment” is a nucleic acid segment of a gene. In certain aspects, the gene includes regulatory sequences involved in transcription, or message production or composition. In particular embodiments, the gene comprises transcribed sequences that encode for a protein,

polypeptide or peptide. In other particular aspects, the gene comprises a WWOX nucleic acid, and/or encodes a WWOX polypeptide or peptide-coding sequences. In keeping with the terminology described herein, an “isolated gene” may comprise transcribed nucleic acid(s), regulatory sequences, coding sequences, or the like, isolated substantially away from other such sequences, such as other naturally occurring genes, regulatory sequences, polypeptide or peptide encoding sequences, etc. In this respect, the term “gene” is used for simplicity to refer to a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that is transcribed, and the complement thereof. In particular aspects, the transcribed nucleotide sequence comprises at least one functional protein, polypeptide and/or peptide encoding unit. As will be understood by those in the art, this functional term “gene” includes both genomic sequences, RNA or cDNA sequences, or smaller engineered nucleic acid segments, including nucleic acid segments of a non-transcribed part of a gene, including but not limited to the non-transcribed promoter or enhancer regions of a gene. Smaller engineered gene nucleic acid segments may express, or may be adapted to express using nucleic acid manipulation technology, proteins, polypeptides, domains, peptides, fusion proteins, mutants and/or such like. Thus, a “truncated gene” refers to a nucleic acid sequence that is missing a stretch of contiguous nucleic acid residues that encode a portion of the full-length WWOX polypeptide. For example, a truncated gene may not contain the nucleic acid sequence for the N-terminal region of the WWOX polypeptide. It is envisioned that the nucleic acid sequences of the present invention may contain fewer than 95% of the contiguous nucleic acid residues of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:30, or SEQ ID NO:32. Alternatively, these sequences may ~~encode~~ comprise fewer than 90%, 85%, 80%, 75%, or 70% of the contiguous nucleic acid residues of SEQ ID NO:1 SEQ ID NO:30, or SEQ ID NO:32.